

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1 1-8. (CANCEL.)

2

3 9. (ORIGINAL) A tape head manufactured utilizing a process, comprising:
4 creating a slot in an upper face of a substrate of a tape head, the slot including at
5 least one edge defining an edge of a tape bearing surface of the tape head;
6 forming and finishing the air bearing surface of the tape head; and
7 performing a grind operation to form a notch in the upper face of the substrate of the
8 tape head, the notch extending from the slot to an outside end of the substrate of the
9 tape head.

10

11 10. (ORIGINAL) The tape head as recited in claim 9, wherein the tape bearing
12 surface of the tape head is finished after creating the slot.

13

14 11. (ORIGINAL) The tape head as recited in claim 9, wherein the grind operation is
15 performed after finishing the air bearing surface of the tape head.

16

17 12. (ORIGINAL) The tape head as recited in claim 9, wherein the slot includes a
18 depth substantially equal to a depth of the notch.

19

20 13. (ORIGINAL) The tape head as recited in claim 9, wherein the slot includes a
21 length substantially equal to a length of the notch.

22

23 14. (ORIGINAL) The tape head as recited in claim 9, wherein the edge of the tape
24 bearing surface of the tape head includes a defect after the slot is created.

25

- 26 15. (ORIGINAL) The tape head as recited in claim 14, wherein the finishing
27 removes the defect.
- 28
- 29 16. (ORIGINAL) The tape head as recited in claim 9, wherein the notch facilitates
30 control of a wrap angle of a tape when passing over the tape bearing surface of
31 the tape head.
- 32
- 33 17. (ORIGINAL) A tape drive system, comprising:
34 a tape head manufactured utilizing a process, comprising:
35 creating a slot in an upper face of a substrate of the tape head, the slot
36 including at least one edge defining an edge of a tape bearing
37 surface of the tape head,
38 forming and finishing the tape bearing surface of the tape head, and
39 performing a grind operation to form a notch in the upper face of the
40 substrate of the tape head, the notch extending from the slot to an
41 outside end of the substrate of the tape head; and
42 a tape for being moved along the tape head.
- 43
- 44 18. (ORIGINAL) The tape drive system as recited in claim 17, wherein the tape
45 bearing surface of the tape head is finished after creating the slot.
- 46
- 47 19. (ORIGINAL) The tape drive system as recited in claim 17, wherein the grind
48 operation is performed after finishing the tape bearing surface of the tape head.
- 49
- 50 20. (ORIGINAL) The tape drive system as recited in claim 17, wherein the slot
51 includes a depth substantially equal to a depth of the notch.
- 52
- 53 21. (ORIGINAL) The tape drive system as recited in claim 17, wherein the slot
54 includes a length substantially equal to a length of the notch.
- 55

- 56 22. (ORIGINAL) The tape drive system as recited in claim 17, wherein the edge of
57 the tape bearing surface of the tape head includes a defect after the slot is
58 created.
- 59
- 60 23. (ORIGINAL) The tape drive system as recited in claim 22, wherein the finishing
61 removes the defect.
- 62
- 63 24. (ORIGINAL) The tape drive system as recited in claim 17, wherein the notch
64 facilitates control of a wrap angle of a tape when passing over the tape bearing
65 surface of the tape head.
- 66
- 67 25-30. (CANCEL)